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ALASKAN "FENCE" GUILTY; MARKETED SMUGGLED FURS

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An Alaskan fur trader, Lou Anderton of Chisana, who operated an extensive "fence" for trappers smuggling furs from Canada into Alaska, has been assessed fines and forfeitures aggregating \$1,200 by the U. S. Commissioner at Cordova, Alaska. Anderton, previous game violator, pleaded guilty to violations of the Alaskan game laws and the Lacey Act covering smuggling.

This fur trader worked a lucrative game. The territory of Alaska placed a \$20 bounty on wolves and coyotes to reduce depredations on big game animals and on caribou, an important Indian food. A trapper, to receive the bounty, must present the pelt with the bones of the left foreleg attached. The authorities remove the bones and punch a hole in the left ear indicating that bounty has been collected. The skins, worth from \$9 to \$45, are then returned to the owner for sale. Anderton went out after bounty fees.

The isolated post at Chisana, Alaska, became a secret market for wolf and coyote pelts that had the proper leg bone attached. Canada pays no bounties. There **also** is a U. S. tariff of one dollar on Canadian skins. Trappers began to sled Canadian catches from Dawson, Yukon Territory, Canada, to Anderton. Later the trader would present the smuggled skins to the proper authorities as his own catch and claim an Alaskan trapper's bounty.

Anderton paid the smugglers for the bounty eligible skins in goods, keeping the transactions quiet. The trappers smuggled the goods back into Canada saving

a Canadian tariff which, on some Alaskan trade articles such as tobacco, is exceedingly high.

Alaska had set up a fund of \$80,000 to cover bounty payments over a two year period. In eleven months bounty claims exhausted this fund. Game agents of the Alaska Game Commission, under Regional Director Frank Dufresne, were after the smugglers. Meanwhile the U. S. Biological Survey's New York agents noticed some irregularities in Alaskan beaver skins. The skins were traced back to Anderton's district.

With only eleven men to cover all of Alaska, the trader's lonely border post at Chisana was hard to watch. Swift glacial rivers in summer and bitter cold and deep snow in winter isolate it. Travel is over trails. The game agents finally hired a plane, flew in, and caught Anderton.

Besides two fines, one of \$100 and the other \$150, this "fence" for fur smugglers will pay \$150 of the plane expense incurred in his apprehension. In addition, Anderton will return to the territory of Alaska \$800 in illegally collected bounties.

"This man is but one of the guilty parties," says W. E. Crouch, head of the Survey's game management agents. "It is the intention to break up all of these Alaskan smuggling combines. Catching such men as Anderton, who are ringleaders, will take the profit out of this type of law violation."

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